

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 9 through 12, 14 and 15. Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 13 as follows:

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1. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister [through a hose]; and

at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump, said bacterial filter comprising a 0.2 micron hydrophobic membrane filter.

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2. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein said bacterial filter is located substantially within [a wall of] said canister.

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5. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into [the] an interior portion of said porous pad [as an interference fit].

8. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination [as claimed in claim 1 further] for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump; and

an elastomeric film dressing for securing said porous pad within said sealable space, wherein said dressing is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive [and said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells].

13. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

F5 a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;

a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound[,], said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;

a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;

said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;

a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Please add the following new claims:

16. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

17. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor being arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

18. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a sensor for detecting variance greater than a predetermined angle of said canister's vertical axis.

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19. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said predetermined angle is approximately 45°.

20. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sensor comprises a tilt sensor, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said canister greater than said predetermined angle is detected.

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21. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 21 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure resultant detection of tilting of said canister.

22. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.

23. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

24. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

25. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.

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case 2 G3
26. A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:
a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;
a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;
a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;
a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;
a bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump;
a first sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid and a second sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said first and second sensors being associated with said pump to discontinue operation thereof in the event of a sensed condition; and
a pressure transducer for determining the negative pressure delivered to the wound site, said pressure transducer being associated with said pump for controlling operation thereof.